

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 10, 12-14, 17 and 20 under 35 USC § 102(e). In addition, the Examiner allowed claims 3-9, and stated that claims 2, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter.

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claims 1, 10, 12-14, 17 and 20 under 35 USC § 102(e), to expedite prosecution, claims 10, 12, 15 and 19 have been amended. Namely, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in claim 11. Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in claim 18. Claim 15, among other things, has been amended to include the limitations of claims 12, 13 and 14. Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 12. In addition, claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Still further, new claims 20 and 21 are added to the application. Claims 3-10, 12, 13, 15 and 19-22 remain pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. AUD1P005).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



C. Douglass Thomas

Reg. No. 32, 947

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
(650) 961-8300